nature unrelentingly attacks all un-natural forms and works of art are of course artificial but unfortunately nature does not distinguish between worthy and worthless forms and the only copy of a play by Aristophanes and the only copy of a tabuloid newspaper can be destroyed by the same fire and the only copy of a play by Aristophanes and the only copy of a tabuloid newspaper can be preserved in a library and nothing can be done about chance. Nature is not a conscious critic and conscious critics are needed now as they were in ancient Greece because quality is of course more important than quantity. In addition to nature and critics a new group of separators has now appeared and they are the nouveaux riches and it is a plain truth that the nouveaux riches perform a vital function in the history of art. As guardians and defenders of the unnecessary, the popular and the non-aesthetic they separate the vulgar from the worthwhile and like nature they do not rely on objective criteria and even though their critical decisions which are not critical decisions can not be ignored they are of no great consequence ultimately. Nothing can prevent the inartistic from rejecting that which is not inartistic in favor of that which is inartistic and nothing can prevent nature's indiscriminate and consistently objective and unrelenting attacks on the artificial and "Après le tremblement de terre qui avait détruit les trois-quarts de Lisbonne, les sages du pays n'avaient pas trouvé un moyen plus efficace pour prévenir une ruine totale que de donner au peuple un bel auto-da-fé, il était décidé par l'université de Coîmbre que le spectacle de quelques personnes brûlées à petit feu, en grande cérémonie, est un secret infaillible pour empêcher la terre de trembler." Lisbon and the "Poème sur le désastre de Lisbonne" and San Andreas and San Francisco and Birgit Nilsson made her American debut in San Francisco and Carmina Burana was first heard in America in San Francisco and at 9:30 AM on All Saints' Day in 1755 in Lisbon there was a rumble and buildings trembled and then a second shock struck and it lasted two full minutes and sixty thousand people were killed and in the palace of the Marques de Lourical two hundred pictures including works of Titian, Correggio and Rubens and 18,000 books and 1,000 manuscripts were destroyed and nothing can be done about chance.

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